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## REMARKS

### Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following four groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-13, 15, 21-24, drawn to a shape memory polymer, classified in class 526, subclass 90;
- II. Claims 14 and 16, drawn to a polymer blend, classified in class 525, subclass 123+;
- III. Claims 17-20, drawn to a method of producing a polymer, classified in class 525, subclass 387; and
- IV. Claims 25-31, drawn to a filler-reinforced polymer, classified in class 524, subclass 404.

10/06/05 Office Action, page 2, paragraph no. 1.

Applicants recognize that restriction practice seeks to avoid multiple searches. However, MPEP 803 provides that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” It is respectfully submitted that the examination of all the claims in this application will not place an undue burden on the PTO. Specifically, after a search for art related to Group I, electronic search capabilities at the Examiner’s disposal would allow her to quickly search for art related to Groups II-IV using compositional limitations in the respective claims, thereby minimizing the number of additional references to be considered.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement for restriction be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Recognizing their obligation to elect an invention to be examined, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, corresponding to claims 1-13, 15, and 21-24.

### Species Election Requirement

The Examiner has required species elections for “(1) the blending polymer species expressed in claim 14 (in the event that applicant elects Group II)”, and “(2) the filler species

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expressed in claim 26 (in the event that applicant elects Group IV)". 10/06/05 Office Action, page 4, paragraph no. 6.

Having elected Group I, Applicants believe that these species election requirements related to Groups II and IV are moot. However, if the Examiner withdraws or modifies the restriction requirement in a way that permits examination of claim 14 and/or claim 26, Applicants elect, with traverse, styrene-butadiene rubber as the blending polymer species of claim 14, and bismuth subcarbonate as the filler species of claim 26.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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